

The David Baldwin House
60 Lake Avenue
Midland Park, Bergen County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

The David Baldwin House
60 Lake Avenue
Midland Park, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: Herman C. Jacobs

Date of Erection: 1838

Architect:

Builder: David Baldwin

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: Main unit two; wing one story

Materials of Construction: Foundation - sandstone

Exterior walls - red sand-
stone, gables siding

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - main unit gambrel,
wing pitch

Historical Data:

David Baldwin, the builder of this house, was a descendant of an old Scotch family whose first members settled in Bergen County in 1720; other than that little is known of the family. Baldwin, an eccentric individual, was an inventor and business man. He claimed that Alexander Graham Bell stole his idea for the telephone from him. Formerly, there was an old mill on the property, and this Baldwin had equipped as an electrical laboratory. There was a telegraph system between the house and the mill and Baldwin was supposed to have discovered the transmission of the voice; this Bell stole and patented before he could protect it.

The Baldwin family apparently kept slaves, for there is a small one story slave house on the property.

Baldwin married in 1837 a woman by the name of Dickinson, whom he purchased from her father for \$100.00. In the following year he built the Dutch stone house which he occupied until his death in 1898. His widow continued to occupy the house after his death and when she died the property came into the possession of her two nieces who sold in 1935 to the present owner.

Bibliography:

Van Valen, J. H. History of Bergen County, New Jersey New York, The New Jersey Publishing and Engraving Company, 1900

Material collected by Wallace Dunlop,
Bergen County Survey Historian

Walter C. Kutt

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